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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY , China/Hong Kong

SUBJECT Chinese Communist Demands on
HO Chi-p'ing in Canton

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. HO Chi-p'ing (何輯屏), chairman of the Canton Chamber of Commerce under the Nationalists, fled from Canton when the city was taken by the Chinese Communists. Shortly thereafter, however, he returned secretly to Canton and attempted to reestablish his business there.*
2. The Chinese Communist authorities informed HO that in order to do business in Canton he would first have to collect for the local government the sum of JEP \$180,000,000,000**, to be paid by 15 December 1949. YEH Chien-ying, mayor of Canton, officially ordered HO to make this payment.***
3. HO attempted to collect the sum from fellow merchants in Canton, but was censured by them for his activities. When his efforts at collection proved unsuccessful, he left Canton secretly on 12 December 1949 and took refuge in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong HO spoke very bitterly against the Communist regime and stated that even if the Communists remained in power throughout China he would have nothing more to do with them. HO also claimed that most merchants in Canton shared his feelings and were preparing to move their businesses and families to Hong Kong to avoid Communist oppression.

* Comment. HO was elected to his position in the Canton Chamber of Commerce in 1946, after a very expensive election campaign.

Comment. This amount is equivalent to HK \$15,000,000.
 Comment. As of 10 December 1949, the official rate in Canton was JmP \$1500 to the Hong kong dollar.

*** [redacted] Comment. Similar levies on Canton merchants have been reported [redacted]

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